

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A floor mat laid in a small animals rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said floor mat is a sheet comprising a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of said small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of said small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of said small animals.
2. (Original) The floor mat according to Claim 1, comprising a size for covering at least the abdomen and the head of said small animals.
3. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising a water absorption property and deodorization property.
4. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1 ~~or 3~~, further comprising a tearing resistance.
5. (Original) The floor mat according to Claim 4, comprising an improved cellulose fabric wherein carboxyl group-introduced cellulose is formed in a shape of sheet.
6. (Original) A small animal rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said small animal rearing cage comprising: a rearing box having a floor and a wall provided at a circumference of said floor; and a floor mat formed with a sheet having a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of said small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of said small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of said small animals
7. (Original) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6, wherein said floor mat is laid upon the floor of said rearing box in such a way that a piece of sheet is folded

each other to form folds.

8. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6 ~~or~~ 7, wherein said floor mat is a sheet larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

9. (New) The floor mat according to Claim 2, further comprising a water absorption property and deodorization property.

10. (New) The floor mat according to Claim 3, further comprising a tearing resistance.

11. (New) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 7, wherein said floor mat is a sheet larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

12. (New) The floor mat according to Claim 9, further comprising a tearing resistance.